



## Update and Planned Activities for the Navy's Environmental Program at the Treasure Island Housing Area (Site 12)

July 30, 2002

### Introduction

The Navy's environmental investigation and cleanup at Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island is a comprehensive program with cooperation and oversight from the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The primary goal of this program is the protection of human health and the environment for all those who live, work, and visit the islands.

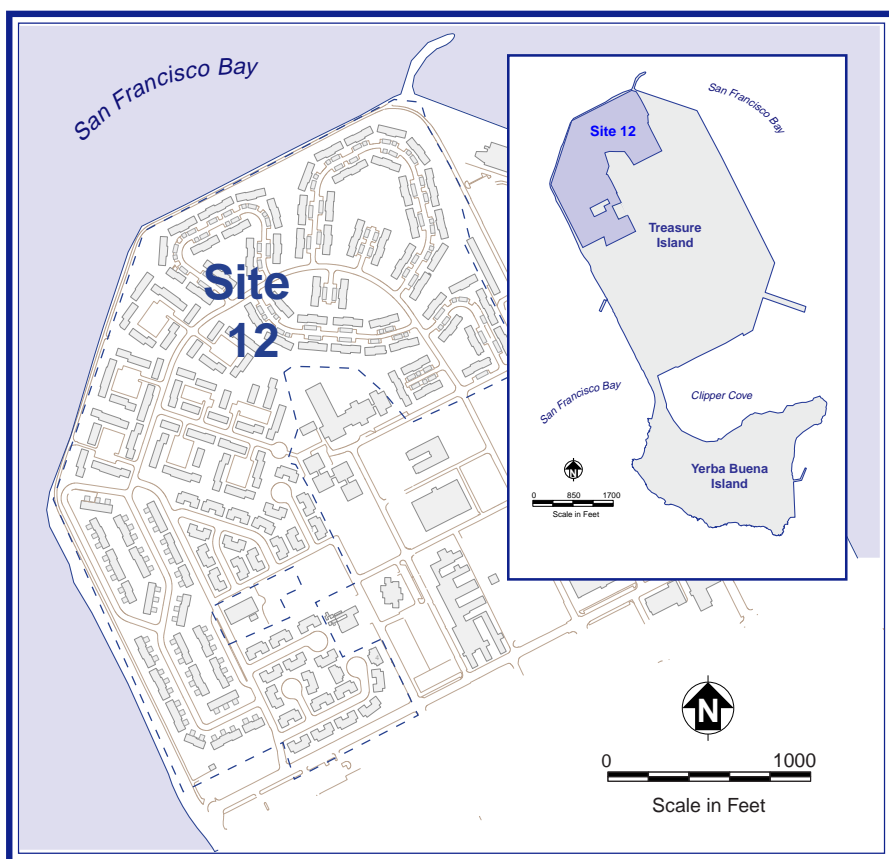
The housing area is included in this program as shown in Figure 1. This update provides information about the Navy's ongoing and planned environmental activities at the Treasure Island housing area and opportunities for community involvement.

### What is the history of the Treasure Island housing area?

The Treasure Island housing area consists of 904 housing units built on the northern part of the island from the 1960s to the 1980s. This area is identified in the Navy environmental documents as "Site 12". When the island was originally constructed for the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition, most of this area was used as a parking lot for the fair. After the Navy took over in late 1940 and until the 1960s, the area remained largely open space and was used for bunker storage of munitions and other materials, vehicle and equipment storage, recreational playing fields, and disposal and burning of discarded materials.

During this period, the Navy generated a variety of waste materials from base operations on Treasure Island. Operations included training, demolition and construction of facilities, maintenance, transportation, and ship support. Before the existence of many of today's environmental laws governing the handling of waste materials, these materials were disposed of in several areas on Treasure Island. Disposed materials included debris such as wood, glass, metals, and pe-

troleum products. Some of this debris was also burned creating ash material. During grading for construction of the housing, debris was mixed with the soil and scattered through grading into portions of the housing area. The extent to which the debris was scattered was not known.



**Figure 1. Location of Treasure Island Housing Area (Site 12)**

### *This Update Tells You About...*

- ✓ Status of investigation and cleanup alternatives being considered at the Treasure Island housing area
- ✓ Community meetings planned for August 2002
- ✓ How to obtain additional information

## *How you can participate...*

### **Information sessions**

The Navy is holding several information sessions to provide the public an opportunity to learn more about the possible cleanup alternatives for the Treasure Island housing area. To accommodate schedules and provide sufficient time for the public to participate, the Navy will hold *identical sessions* over a three-day period. During these information sessions, you will have an opportunity to view posters, pick up handout information, and talk personally to Navy representatives and other subject matter experts in an informal setting. You will also learn more about:

- ✓ the history of the residential area including environmental investigation and cleanup to date;
- ✓ health-related information; and
- ✓ options being considered for addressing environmental issues in the residential area.

#### **Dates and Times:**

Thursday, August 15, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Friday, August 16, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday, August 17, 10:00am - 2:00pm

#### **Place:**

Nimitz Conference Center  
Building 140, California Avenue, Treasure Island



You can also participate by attending the August Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, which will be dedicated to Site 12.

### **Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting**

#### **Date and Time:**

Tuesday, August 20, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

#### **Place:**

Casa de la Vista  
Building 271  
Treasure Island

## *What has the Navy done to investigate the Treasure Island housing area?*

The Navy has conducted a series of soil and groundwater samplings in the housing area from the early 1990's through today. Some of you may have seen or received notices about Navy contractors drilling or excavating trenches. Over 2,700 individual soil samples and 300 groundwater samples have been collected at locations in the housing area. The Navy, working as a team with Cal/EPA and US EPA and the City of San Francisco, has examined sampling data, looked at historical aerial photographs from the 1940's and later, and reviewed Navy records and reports. Each phase of the investigation was carefully planned based on information gathered in earlier phases in a step-by-step process.

## *What are the results of the Navy investigations and activities to date?*

The results of these investigations initially identified distinct areas where debris disposal routinely occurred before the housing was built. Some of the disposed material contains petroleum and hazardous substances such as lead from lead-based paints commonly used during that time, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from electrical and hydraulic equipment, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are often associated with petroleum products and burned material. These areas have been fenced off. Some soil has been removed and replaced in several of the identified debris areas and in a former storage yard area where PCBs had been found.

Groundwater has been evaluated and has been shown not to be an issue. Drinking water is piped from the City of San Francisco to Treasure Island.

Subsequent investigation results showed that debris, lead, PAHs and PCBs were also scattered through construction grading in soil outside the primary disposal areas. Some limited disposal may also have occurred outside the primary disposal areas. These scattered substances are not located in one particular area, and the locations and concentrations of these substances do not occur in a clear pattern. In a few backyards outside the fenced area, the Navy has taken temporary measures to limit access to

the underlying soil by placing sod or concrete tiles ("paver blocks") in those areas.

At the time that residents moved into portions of the housing area, the Navy did not know that the disposed materials extended beyond identified areas of housing that had not been leased.

### *What steps are being taken to address environmental issues?*

Because it is not clear precisely where the scattering of lead, PCBs and PAHs may or may not have occurred, as a precaution, the Navy plans to take steps within all of the backyards in the Treasure Island housing area. Additionally, in the near future, the Navy plans to evaluate the open grass areas between the buildings and conduct additional actions if necessary.

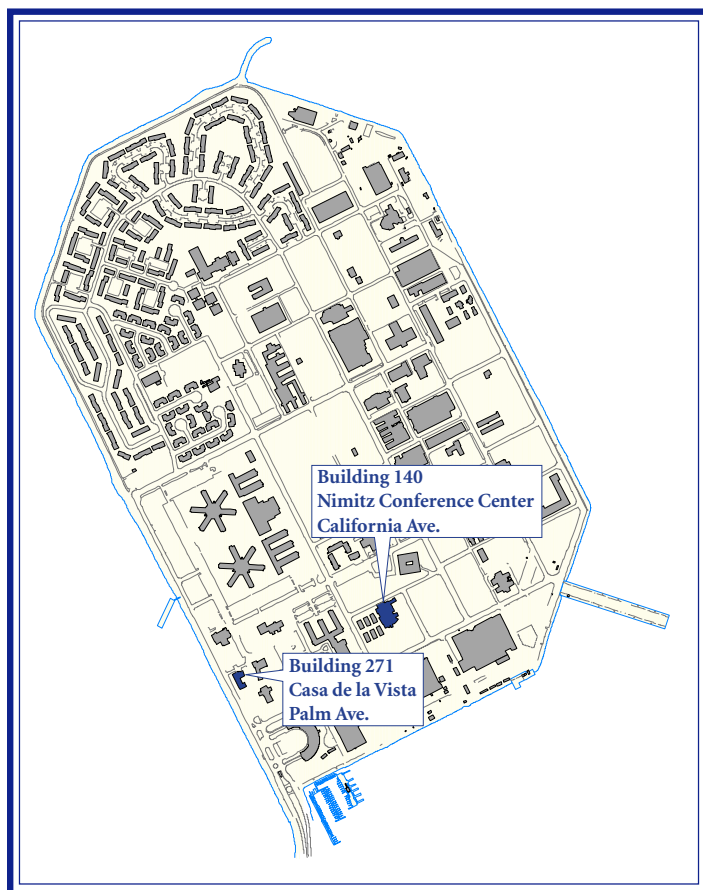
The alternative plans under consideration will be summarized in detail in a draft Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA). All alternatives include excavation of open grass areas within the primary disposal areas. Alternatives being considered for all the backyards include the following:

- ✓ Covering the entire backyard with a concrete surface to eliminate exposure to underlying soil.
- ✓ Excavation and replacement of soil throughout the backyards.
- ✓ Soil investigation in all the backyards followed by either a concrete surface or excavation and replacement of soil if necessary.

### *What is an EE/CA?*

To evaluate cleanup alternatives for the debris disposal areas and backyards in the housing area, the Navy is preparing a draft EE/CA. The draft EE/CA is a report that will describe and evaluate various alternatives for cleanup of these portions of the Treasure Island housing area.

The Navy is developing the draft EE/CA with regulatory oversight by Cal/EPA and US EPA. Once the Navy issues the draft



**Figure 2. Location of Meetings in 2002**

#### **EE/CA Technical Considerations**

- ✓ Health Protection
- ✓ Ability to Implement
- ✓ Cost Effectiveness

EE/CA, there will be a 30-day public comment period and a public meeting. The dates of the comment period and meeting will be announced.

Because we want your input early, the Navy has scheduled a series of information sessions in mid August (see box on Page 2). These sessions will be held in order to inform the community and to gather public input before issuing a draft plan for the cleanup actions at the housing area.

## *How can I stay informed?*

### **Project Contacts**

If you have questions about the information contained in this site update, you are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals:

#### **Steve Edde**

U.S. Navy  
Environmental Liaison  
410 Palm Avenue, Room 161, Building 1  
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130  
(415) 743-4704  
[eddesl@efdswnavfac.navy.mil](mailto:eddesl@efdswnavfac.navy.mil)

#### **James Sullivan**

U.S. Navy  
Base Environmental Coordinator  
1230 Columbia St., Suite 1100  
San Diego, CA 92101-8517  
(619) 532-0966  
[sullivanjb@efdswnavfac.navy.mil](mailto:sullivanjb@efdswnavfac.navy.mil)

#### **David Rist**

Cal/EPA  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200  
Berkeley, CA 94710-2721  
(510) 540-3763  
[drist@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:drist@dtsc.ca.gov)

### *What happens next?*

The Navy will consider the comments you provide at the information sessions and RAB meeting in August 2002 during the evaluation of cleanup alternatives.

The Navy plans to publish the draft EE/CA in early September 2002. At that time, the Navy will announce an official public comment period, at which time you will have an opportunity to provide formal written or oral comments on the draft EE/CA.

The Navy will also host a public meeting during the comment period. The date, time, and place of that meeting will be announced.

#### **Estimated Timeline**

Completion of Plans – Early 2003  
Project Completion – Early 2004

### *How can I get additional information?*

For more information about environmental activities on Treasure Island, visit the Navy's website at [www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/treasureisland.htm](http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/treasureisland.htm)

Two local information repositories have been established for community access to technical documents for the Treasure Island residential area and other sites at Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island.

The repositories contain environmental documents including technical reports and an annotated index, and are located at:

#### **Navy Southwest Detachment – Treasure Island**

410 Palm Avenue, Building 1, Room 161  
San Francisco, CA 94130  
(415) 743-4704

#### **City of San Francisco Main Library**

Science, Technical, and Government Documents Room  
100 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 557-4500

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Steve Edde  
Navy Southwest Detachment  
410 Palm Avenue  
Room 161, Building 1  
Treasure Island  
San Francisco, CA 94130-1802



### Mailing Coupon

If you would like to be added to the TI/YBI mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

Steve Edde  
Navy Southwest Detachment  
410 Palm Avenue  
Room 161, Building 1  
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130-1802

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_